

REMARKS

Claim 7 has been amended to require that the waste being treated is treated sludge of exhaust gases from alloy production furnaces. Support for this amendment can be found, *inter alia*, on page 1, lines 1-3.

Applicants submit that the cited prior art does not disclose or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, because the prior art does not teach or suggest a method of obtaining electrolytic manganese from treated sludge of exhaust gases from alloy production furnaces, using the method steps recited in the claims.

New claim 13 is also presented for examination. It should be noted that the term "consisting essentially of" is used for the transitional language.

It is believed that the presently amended claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. Favorable reconsideration of the application is thus urged.

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for reply to the Final Office action dated March 24, 2010, for one month from June 24, 2010, to July 24, 2010. A duly completed Credit Card Payment Form is attached to effect payment of the extension fee.

Respectfully submitted



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